

December 2, 2018

**A reading from Ephesians chapter 3 verses 14 through 16. You can find this reading on page 977 of your pew Bible.**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 50.**

Leader: The Mighty One, God the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**People: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth. Our God comes;  
he does not keep silence;**

Leader: before him is a devouring fire,  
around him a mighty tempest.

**People: He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

Leader: “Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

**People: The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge!**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it  
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit  
and prophesied, saying,

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the  
wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***